

NEWS

would be tabled until a "formal literary discussion" could occur.

"Finally, after almost a half decade of procrastination," writes Russell, the leadership pulled together a "Statement" on gay liberation prior to the 1976 convention.

Russell describes it as "the most definitive declaration indicating the LSA/LSO has no interest in developing a



Stuart Russell

scientific Marxist analysis of homosexual oppression and liberation." The statement confines its support for gay people to civil rights. It makes no attempt to relate gay oppression to capitalism. The Statement appeared in the internal bulletin of the party too late for pre-convention discussion.

At the convention, adoption of this "Political Committee Statement on Gay Liberation" was deferred until the August Central Committee Plenum so that a two-month written discussion could occur. Russell calls it a "non-discussion". A number of gay liberationists made contributions, and made amendments to the Statement, but the leadership did not respond.

At the August Plenum, when the Statement was to be voted on, Russell says, "we were assailed as peddlers of a 'theory of homosexuality', as advocates of disciplining 'comrades' lifestyles' and 'diluting the party's program'." The amendments made by the gay liberationists were unanimously rejected by the Central Committee. the "Statement on Gay Liberation" was adopted, unchanged.

In Montreal, Russell had become "the only openly gay male member — a situation I find socially and personally impossible." When the Central Committee adopted the "Statement on Gay Liberation," Russell felt he could no longer remain a member of the party. "Although my decision to resign over these questions has been extremely difficult to make," his resignation says, "it has been arrived at with the fullest confidence that it is the correct one. I simply had no other alternative."

by Merv Walker □

Winnipeg

Gays step forward at NDP convention

The Manitoba NDP held their annual convention January 28-30 in Winnipeg. Gays for Equality members were highly visible at the convention, both as delegates and at a "NDP Gay Caucus" literature table.

Resolutions calling for the addition of sexual orientation to the Manitoba Human Rights Act were forwarded by a number of constituency associations. All resolutions at the convention were first dealt with in panels, and after a lengthy discussion the sexual orientation resolution was adopted for recommendation to the convention.

Because of time limitations, the resolution never made it to the floor, but its adoption by an official NDP panel was a small but significant step forward in GFE's struggle to have the Manitoba NDP adopt policies supporting gay rights.

GFE is presently discussing strategy for a strong intervention in the upcoming NDP national convention to be held in Winnipeg this summer.

by Jeremy Bass □

Gay youth group

A gay youth group is now in the process of being set up in Winnipeg. One planning meeting has been held, and those present decided to defer decisions about the goals and purposes of the group until the first regular meeting, to occur on a Saturday afternoon in March. The exact date will be set when contacts have been made with interested persons.

All gay people under 21 are welcome. Anyone wanting further information should write Gays for Equality, Box 27, University of Manitoba, R3T 2N2, or telephone 474-8216 between 7:30 and 10:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

by Jeremy Bass □

Manitoba

Birth certificates to show 'preferred' sex

The Manitoba Law Reform Commission has recommended that transsexuals born in the province who have undergone 'certifiable' sex changes be granted a birth certificate showing their 'preferred' sex.

Commission chairperson Frank Muldoon stated that the recommendation arose from a fear that if, for example, a transsexual were convicted of a crime, s/he might be sent to a correctional institution inappropriate for her/his preferred gender. Muldoon said a two-year study into this matter had been initiated at the request of transsexuals.

The commission's report proposed the establishment of a committee of medical specialists to 'prove' the gender of the person concerned.

by Paul Trollope □

Libraries booked

Gays for Equality of Winnipeg has recently finished a program of providing public libraries with copies of *Society and the Healthy Homosexual* by George Weinberg. Purchase of the books was made possible through Gays for Equality funds, personal donations, and a grant from Happenings, the local gay social club. Over 100 copies of the book were supplied to public libraries, and over 150 copies will be sent to high school libraries in Manitoba in the near future. A few libraries sent acknowledgements of receipt, and one librarian sent a \$10.00 donation.

Especially significant was the placement of books in rural libraries throughout the province. The need for good, accurate information on homosexuality is especially great in rural areas. Hopefully the book will help to alleviate the isolation of some rural gays.

by Jeremy Bass □

Gay kid lib

Barbara Gittings, the long-time American lesbian activist, spoke on February 4 at the University of Manitoba. Her talk, entitled "Gay Liberation is for Children Too," dealt with the development of non-sexist, non-homophobic children's literature. It was co-sponsored by the U of M Students' Union and Gays for Equality.

While in Winnipeg, Gittings appeared on several radio and TV talk shows as well as at a Gays for Equality open house.

Her speech attracted an SRO crowd of around 300 persons.

by Jeremy Bass □

Edmonton

Men arrested for kissing

Two local men are awaiting trial here on charges of gross indecency following their arrest for kissing in a city park last December.

continued on next page

Gay Alliance Toward Equality (Toronto)

Become a GATE supporter
Fight to end discrimination.

Add your voice to the movement for our liberation.

For a minimum pledge of \$10 a year (\$5 for unemployed) we will give you:

- reduced admission at GATE dinners and dances
- A subscription to **Gay Rising**, GATE's monthly newsletter

- information about upcoming events and how you can help in the fight for our rights.

Join the Lesbian Caucus

An autonomous organization that seeks to mobilize the lesbian community of Toronto.

Meets the second and fourth Sunday of each month (see calendar below)

All women welcome.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun Feb 27

GATE Lesbian Caucus 4 pm 193 Carlton

Wed Mar 2

GATE monthly meeting 8 pm 193 Carlton St

Sun Mar 6

Lesbian Organization of Toronto 4 pm
342 Jarvis St

The GATE Dance

Sat March 19

9 pm, Holy Trinity Church
Dance and be gay at
the Eaton Centre

Politics of Homosexuality Discussion Group

8 pm, 33 St. George St (U of T International Student Centre)

Wed Mar 9 Homophobia — Fighting Back

Wed March 23 The Gay Ghetto — Other ways of doing it

Write or phone us 193 Carlton Street, Toronto M5A 2K7 964-0148

BULLET FACTSHEET

Bullet's Houston laboratory has developed a product totally unlike any other on the market. Consider these points:

- **Potency.** These claims are generally widespread, but Bullet is the only room deodorizer to receive rave reviews from *The Village Voice* in New York in a comparison look at similar products. Try a bottle and decide for yourself. After that, it will be hard to settle for less.

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Rick Holowaty, 21, and Dean Solomany, 20, were arrested after they were seen kissing in a parked car in Queen Elizabeth Park at 5 AM on the morning of December 3.

The two men did not see the police cruiser patrolling the park with its lights out, but when confronted by Constable W. Swieswerda, the two men explained that they were merely patching up a quarrel in the privacy of their car. The constable, unconvinced, called his partner (who reportedly had dozed off) to assist in the arrest of the two alleged criminals.

Rick and Dean report that while in custody they were subjected to verbal abuse by officers of the Edmonton Police Department and since then have been stopped on a number of occasions for 'ID checks' and 'dope searches'.

In addition, within days of their arrest the employers of both men received telephone calls informing them of the charges against the two. Fortunately, neither employer showed much concern.

Considering the serious nature of the charges (maximum sentence for gross indecency under section 157 of the Criminal Code is five years in prison), the men have elected trial by jury.

GATE Edmonton has organized a defence fund to provide financial and moral support for Rick and Dean. Should this case go beyond the preliminary hearing scheduled for March 30, the estimated cost could exceed \$5,000.

Financial contributions and messages of support will be welcomed by the Holowaty/Solomany Defence Fund, c/o GATE Edmonton, Box 1852, Edmonton, Alta.

by Rosemary Ray □

Alberta

Labour group gives OK "in principle"

The Human Rights Committee of the Alberta Federation of Labour has adopted "in principle" a supportive position in regard to amending existing provincial civil rights legislation to include the term "sexual orientation."

The AFL will vote on adopting an official gay rights policy at their annual convention in the spring.

by Rosemary Ray □

Hamilton

Educating Hamilton

Public education has of late been one of the chief concerns of the McMaster Homophile Association. The group's president, Brian Marsh, participated in a lengthy talk-show on a local radio station, and members of the group have given talks to classes at Mohawk College, a local community college.

These programs made use of such films as *The Naked Civil Servant* and *The Silent Minority*. In addition, the group has acted as consultant to the McMaster Film Board production *Son of the Family*, which depicts a young gay's coming out. The film is due for September release.

Anyone wishing to participate in MHA activities is invited to call the group's phone line, 527-0336.

by Shane Que Hee □

Vancouver

Van Cops scour Bay

The Vancouver Police Department arrested over 30 gay men during January in the English Bay area. The arrested have been charged with gross indecency even though little more than groping or kissing had taken place.

Between 11 PM and 4 AM, groups of half a dozen officers have been combing this popular cruising spot for signs of gay activity. Plainclothes officers have

also been reported in the area engaging in entrapment. Police officers are said to be perjuring themselves as well as abusing gay persons both verbally and physically.

The 'clean-up' has been underway since early December, ostensibly in response to "citizen complaints" about sexual activity in the area.

from SEARCH Newsletter
and Northwest Gay Review □

National

New publications launched

January saw the first issues of two gay publications in Canada, each with a distinctive focus.

After Stonewall, A Critical Journal of Gay Liberation, aims at serving gay liberation in the Canadian prairies and adjacent American states. The first issue includes articles on the 1976 National Lesbian Conference, men's liberation, and the Susan Saxe Defense. It is available "at least four times a year" from c/o Davis, PO Box 2051, 266 Graham, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Directions: for gay men has as its goal "speaking to gay men about their own lifestyle." Issue No. 1 includes an interview with Mark Whitehead of the Gay Youth Group (Toronto), a short story "Trucks are for Trunkers," and two photo features. It is published monthly by Tatmar Marketing Ltd., 744 Dundas St. East, Toronto.

After Stonewall pledges to accept "no advertising that is sexist, racist, exploitative, anti-youth, or otherwise chauvinistic." The Advertising Manager of *Directions* is the President of the Richmond Street Health Emporium, and its ads come mostly from Toronto steam-baths and from Tatmar Marketing, Ltd.

Your turn!



Group lobbying makes the point, demonstrations publicize it, but both need the backing of many letters from individuals to show broad public support. If you object to the CBC's national ban on public service announcements from gay groups, we suggest you write letters to:

- John Roberts
Secretary of State
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
(No postage necessary)
- Al Johnson, President
CBC
P.O. Box 8478
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J5

South Africa

Paper begun

Efforts by two gay Johannesburg businessmen have resulted in the publication of this country's first gay newspaper. *Contact*, a 32-page monthly, made its debut last fall and was favourably reviewed by at least one establishment newspaper, *The Sunday Times* of Durban. Its article on *Contact* was headed, "Gay newspaper will keep homosexuals in the picture."

The two men responsible for the paper, Zeke Kerbel and Tony Ritch, were quoted as saying that they hoped that their publication would provide "a valuable means of communication for South Africa's entire gay community."

from Campaign □

United States

Saxe changes plea

American lesbian anti-war activist Susan Saxe has pleaded guilty in Boston to charges of armed robbery and manslaughter in connection with a 1970 bank holdup. A second trial was to have begun in late January.

The first, presided over by a lenient judge, ended in a hung jury. Given that the judge assigned the second trial has a reputation for being tough, and that Saxe faced the possibility of life imprisonment if found guilty of manslaughter, she decided to accept the 12 to 14 years in jail on the lesser charge.

In a statement read outside the courtroom, Saxe stated, "I plead guilty for one reason only, that it is the surest and quickest way to end the hold this state will have on my life and my personal freedom." She stressed that no deal was made and that the state got nothing in return for the 12 to 14 year sentence except her own guilty plea.

This is the second trial that Saxe has faced since her arrest in 1975 after five years as an underground fugitive from the FBI. The first trial in Philadelphia found her guilty for her admitted participation in a robbery at a Massachusetts armory and for conspiring to rob a bank. The sentences from both the Boston and Philadelphia trials will be served concurrently.

These convictions stem from her anti-war activities in the late sixties and early seventies. In commenting on them Saxe said, "these actions came from a sense of outrage against the injustices of sexism, racism, and imperialism and particularly the immediate and pressing crisis of the Vietnam war."

Members of the Susan Saxe Defense Committee believe that the public support that developed for Susan is what made it possible for her to be facing less than life imprisonment. "The fact that our efforts have substantially reduced the amount of time Susan will spend in jail reflects the pressure we as a movement have exerted."

by David Gibson □

Same-sex dancing isn't gay — Indiana rights group says

In what may have been the first U.S. test case of municipal legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the Bloomington (Indiana) Human Rights Commission ruled on February 3 that a discoteque management could prevent same-sex dancing without contravening the civil rights of gay people. U.S. gays fear that if this ruling stands and becomes a precedent, the advocacy of gay civil rights through efforts to include sexual orientation in anti-discrimination legislation will be meaningless.

The Human Rights Commission did not dispute the facts of the case. They found that the discoteque had in fact prevented same-sex dancing, and that the type of dancing engaged in was the same as that permitted male/female couples — i.e. that it was not in some other sense "obscene." The Commission "reasoned" that 1/ the class protected because of its sexual orientation is an invisible class, that 2/ same-sex dancing is a neutral activity which does not indicate sexual orientation, and that 3/ the regulation prohibiting same-sex dancing is a neutral rule in that it applies to same-sex couples regardless of what their sexual orientation may be.

Further, the Commission "reasoned" that the provisions covering sexual orientation discrimination do not apply to people of the same sex while "acting together in some neutral manner whether the activity was dancing, hugging or sharing an apartment."

The Commission seemed to ignore the brief presented by the gay people's attorney, Bruce Waskowski, who cited an

earlier race discrimination case in which it was held that "anytime race plays a part in the denial of, or plays a part in the setting of a restrictive condition or limitation upon the use of a public accommodation, the Ordinance is violated."

Waskowski pointed out that the gay people had indicated their sexual orientation by their consistent choice of dancing partners, that the disco management had so perceived them, and that the policy was clearly anti-gay in motivation.

The lone dissenter in the 5-to-1 decision noted in her written opinion that, in undisputed testimony, one of the complainants had been called a "faggot," and that the gay people had been referred to as "your kind." She felt that the disco management, by both word and deed, had discriminated against gay people, and voiced a fear that is being echoed by a frightened Bloomington gay community: if the facts of this case "are not enough evidence to prove sexual orientation discrimination against the complainants, then I believe no complainant can show the Bloomington Human Rights Commission he or she was discriminated against on the grounds of sexual orientation."

The discoteque's brief to the Commission had asserted that "it is one thing to have a propensity to have a sexual relationship with a member of the same sex and another thing to demonstrate this propensity in a public place." The Commission evidently agreed.

by Harvey Hamburg □

Anita's citric acid

The Miami, Florida gay community is gearing up for combat against the likes of Anita Bryant, the Florida Citrus Commission, and a coalition of anti-gay and anti-E.R.A. conservatives. Florida is one of the states which has yet to ratify the pro-feminist Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In January the Dade County Commission (which includes Miami) passed an ordinance banning discrimination against gay people in housing and employment. Anita Bryant, who has been a spokesperson for the Florida Citrus Commission since 1968, protested vehemently against passage of the ordinance, and has accused gay people of "trying to recruit our children to homosexuality." Anti-gay forces have gathered enough signatures to force a referendum on the issue, and the crucial vote will take place sometime this summer.

Bob Kunst, a gay spokesperson in the area and one of the people responsible for the passage of the gay rights ordinance, had demanded that the Citrus Commission take ads featuring Miss Bryant off the air. Said Kunst, "Miss Bryant is using her fame to prevent gay and bisexual citizens from retaining the same rights as other Americans."

Citrus industry spokespersons have refused to dissociate themselves from Miss Bryant, and, according to Kunst, Florida gays are receiving information from around the United States that an unofficial boycott of Florida citrus products is gathering momentum. While the boycott is unofficial, Kunst told *The Body Politic*, "People are not drinking Florida orange juice. Do your own thing, and we appreciate the support."

Persons wishing to protest the Commission's inaction are urged to write to Edward Taylor, Executive Director, Florida Citrus Commission, 1115 E. Memorial Blvd., Lakeland, Fla. 33801, USA. Telephone: (305) 444-4412.

A word to the interested: your local grocer can easily differentiate between Florida citrus products and, for example, California produce. Maybe you should too.

by Harvey Hamburg □